

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-04 NSC-05 OPR-02 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 USIE-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 SSO-00

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O R 171711Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9838

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 04884

FOR AF/C BUCHANAN FROM MELONE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP GB US

SUBJ: VISIT OF GABONESE PRESIDENT AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL
OFFICIALS TO US

REF: STATE 35675 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR LEFLEM CONFIRMS THAT BONGO AND SUITE OF ABOUT 45 PLAN TO VISIT NEW YORK FROM FEB 28 TO ABOUT MARCH 4. THEY WILL USE THE PRESIDENTIAL DC-8; LEFLEM WILL INFORM US OF ETD AND ETA AND INITIATE APPROPRIATE OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING PROCEDURES FOR PLANE. WILL APPRISE YOU OF DETAILS OF TRAVEL AND SEND NAMES OF SUITE WHEN AVAILABLE. VISA APPLICATIONS FOR GABONESE NOW BEING PROCESSED HERE.

2. LEFLEM DESCRIBED TRIP AS STRICTLY PERSONAL. HE SEEMED UNPERTURBED WHEN I REPEATED THAT THE CHANCES OF SEEING PRESIDENT CARTER WERE SLIM. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SAME COURTESIES WOULD BE
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ACCORDED BONGO THIS TRIP AS HE RECEIVED DURING HIS LAST PRIVATE VISIT. AMONG THESE LEFLEM MENTIONED: SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION (6 AGENTS); LOAN OF TWO CARS, INCLUDING ONE LIMOUSINE; ONE ECONOMIC OFFICER GUIDE-ESCORT FROM WASHINGTON; ONE "PROTOCOL" OFFICIAL (APPARENTLY WOMAN FROM LOS ANGELES RECEPTION CENTER ACCOMPANIED LAST TIME). LEFLEM NOTED THAT BONGO HAD

BEEN MET AT DULLES LAST VISIT BY "THE SECRETARY'S DEPUTY" AND THAT HE HAD HAD COURTESY CONTACTS WITH NEW YORK AUTHORITIES WHICH, "IN VIEW OF THE GROWING COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GABON AND N.Y.," HE HOPED MIGHT BE REPEATED. HE ALSO HOPED THAT THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN AGAIN WOULD BE ABLE TO CALL ON BONGO.

3. LEFLEM SAID THAT HE WOULD REQUEST THE GABONESE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE PARTY AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS. BONGO INTENDS TO REMAIN IN NEW YORK THROUGHOUT HIS VISIT.

4. IN ADDITION TO OKINDA AND MAYILA, THE PRESIDENT'S MINISTER-COUNSELOR, FRANCOIS NTOUTOUME, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE CABINET, FABIEN OMBOUMA, WILL LEAVE PARIS FEB 22 AND GO DIRECTLY TO SEATTLE. THEY WILL SUBSEQUENTLY VISIT LAS VEGAS, WASHINGTON, D.C., AND NEW YORK, FROM WHICH THEY PROBABLY WILL DEPART WITH BONGO. LEFLEM PROMISED TO PROVIDE THEIR DETAILED ITINERARY.

5. BON COURAGE.
HARLAN

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Message Attributes

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